SAC-TUG

SACRAMENTO TANDY USERS' GROUP.

Volume 1 Number 1 February 1986

Hello...I'm Ben Brown, your new SAC-TUG newsletter editor. I hope together we can share computer information and news. Any article you write will be greatly appreciated. Another need is for dates and locations of computer events in or near the Sacramento area. Every month, I'll publish a calendar of events to help keep you informed. Thanks for all the help I know I'll receive from you in the future.

Although the newsletter will be small at first, don't worry because as we grow, it will too. If you can think of a section to add, then give me a call and we can expand the SAC-TUG newsletter.

On page two, you will find information about the newsletter and about SAC-TUG. On the front cover, there will be news about the SAC-TUG's up-coming meeting and what's special inside this month's newsletter. Once again, thanks for the .....HELP.

Ben Brown

IN MEMORY OF THE CHALLENGER

For many of us, a Space Shuttle blast-off had become an everyday thing. In the beginning, we sat in front of our TV sets for every NASA space shot. Every tense moment was shared by the world. As space shots became a monthly, even weekly, event many of us accepted them as not the future, but as the past. Sometimes I found out about a space shuttle flight after their second day in orbit. This was not lack of interest, but more of the acceptance of the space age.

Thus came the shock with the news of the loss of the Challenger. The reality of the cost of exploration has hit home for many Americans once more.

We mourn the loss of our space explorers and send our support to all the NASA family. After all, we share the glories of their victories, while they alone face the dangers of space exploration.

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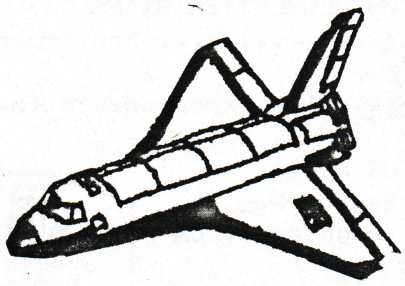

Challenger

The SAC-TUG NEWS is published monthly by the Sacramento Tandy User Group. Membership in SAC-TUG is $12.00 annually. The membership fee includes a one year subscription to the SAC-TUG NEWS.

Non-profit organizations (e.g. computer clubs) are free to reprint material from this newsletter, with the appropriate credit given. Profit organizations must obtain permission from the editor to reprint material.

SAC-TUG maintains a newsletter exchange with other clubs. To join the exchange program, send us a newsletter.

The deadline for the SAC-TUG input will normally be the same day as the SAC-TUG regular meeting. See the monthly calendar of events for the exact date. Anything received after this date will be held for publication in the following month's issue. Any questions should be directed to the editor.

Your mailing lable will tell you when it is time to renew your membership. Renew promptly to avoid missing a single issue of the SAC-TUG NEWS.

SAC-TUG OFFICERS
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Treasurer.....Louis Valenta
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COMPUTER TRIVA QUESTIONS

1) What are the four major physical (hardware) components of a computer?

2) Who is credited with the design of the first modern computer?

3) Convert the Hex number FA00 to a Decimal.

4) What do "IBM" and the 2001 computer "HAL" have in common?

5) Which "port" is faster, serial or paralle?

Answers on page 3.

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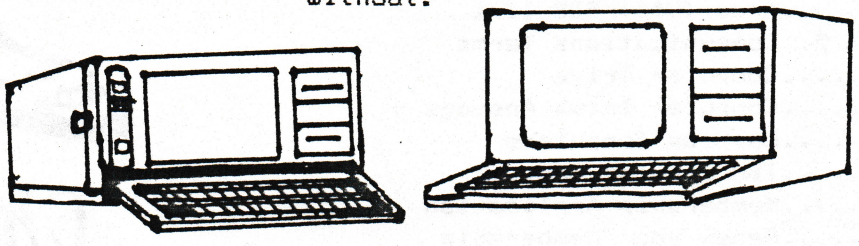
SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE BEST COMPUTER SYSTEM

Over 100 Billion bytes of random access memory, multi-tasking, multi-port easly transported (portable) and direct visual to digital range indicators plus the ability for some reasoning.

Everyone owns one, although some models are not used much. Yes, you know what I'm talking about "the human brain". It's the biggest (memory wise) and fastest computer I know of, and one computer we couldn't live without.



ANOTHER BIRTH AT BIG BLUE:

Now for the IBM news of the month...a new battery-operated lap-top computer weighing in under 12 pounds. Big Blue's Lap-top will have a flip-up screen, 256K of RAM and up to two 3 1/2" drives. Want to bet if it uses MS-DOS or not? Rumor also says that it will have a built-in modem. The predicted price is $1500.00 with no disk drives and $2500.00 with drives.

With Big Blue's track record, I'm betting they will have a winner. I'll have more on IBM's Lap-top as it becomes available.

A LITTLE TANDY LAP-TOP HISTORY:
by Ben Brown

In the early days of lap-top computers, there were few brands and many high prices. The Grid computer topped the list when it came to features, quality and most important....price ($6900.00+). Then a company we all knew (a somewhat love/hate relationship) started marketing a lap-top that we could afford (now around $500.00). This was dubbed the TRS-80 Model 100. We could even afford the four pen-light batteries it required for power. A simple, inexpensive six volt D.C. power adapter made the operating costs even less.

Although the Model 100 was said to be somewhat Model IV compatible, I found that only the cassette storage system was. It was really only Microsoft basic compatible. If you bought the Model 100 disk system then you were really out in left field.

Then the Model 200 appeared and well, as you might have guessed, another slight software change.

It's a good computer but it fell short of buyers expectations. Not a big enough jump from the Model 100.

Well now this brings us to another lap-top, the Tandy Model 600. At least the 600 has it's own 3 1/2" disk drive. A big change in software and a price of $1700.00 which will probably kill it dead in the water. Now if the 600 was a true full screen MS-DOS computer, then Tandy would have complemented the model 1000 and become a real lap-top competitor.

Tandy can beat Big Blue's game with quality and, most of all, low prices. The model 1000 has proved that, so "come on Tandy" lets see a "Real" MS/DOS lap-top computer.

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COMPUTER TRIVA ANSWERS

(See page 2 for questions)

1) a. Central processing unit (CPU), b. main storage, c. auxiliary storage, and d. input/output devices.

2) Charles Babbage is credited with the design of the first modern computer.

3) Hex FA00 is 64000 in Decimal.

4) "HAL", the computer in 2001 is named after "IBM". If you look at the alphabetical sequence of the letters the you can see that each letter in "HAL" comes just before each letter in "IBM". H-I, A-B, and L-M (see what I mean).

5) The paraelle port is faster than the serial port.

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GLOSSARY OF DATA COMMUNICATIONS TERMS
BY AARON SCOTT

ASCII- American Standard Code for Information Interchange. This is the code established as an American standard by the American Standards Association, and defines the character set used by most manufacturers other than IBM.

Asynchronous Serial Transmission- A method of data transfer that uses framing characters to surround each character. The transmitter and reciever are synchronized only for one character at a time and the time between characters is not critical.

Baud- A unit of transmission speed. One baud corresponds to a rate of one signal element per second. 300 baud is thus 300 bits per second. If transmitting one character requires a total of 10 bits, a rate of 300 baud will correspond to a maximum of 30 characters per second.

Bit- A single unit of information. A contraction of "binary digit", and the smallest unit of information in a binary system. It is the choice between two possible states, usually designated one and zero.

Bit Rate- The speed at which bits are transmitted, expressed as bits per second.

Buffer- Data storage used to compensate for a difference in transmission rates or timing of events when transfering data from one device to another.

Carriage Return- In a character-by-character printing mechanism, the operation that causes the next character to be printed at the left margin. In the TRS-80 and some printers, a carriage return character (X'0D') will also cause the next character to be printed on the next line.

Character- The actual or coded representation of a digit, letter, or symbol.

Code- A system of symbols and rules for representing information.

Code Conversion- The conversion of data from one code to another.

Data- Any representations such as characters, binary signals or analog quantities to which meaning might be assigned.

Date Communication- The movement of encoded information through electrical transmission systems.

Data Set- A device that converts the signals of a computer or terminal to signals that are suitable for transmission over communication lines and the reverse. Typically, a modem.

Duplex- A communiction channel allowing simultaneous and independent transmission in both directions. Often refered to as Full Duplex.

Half-Duplex- An alternate one-way-at-a-time transmission.

Modem- Contraction for modulator-demodulator. A device that modulates signals into a carrier frequency suitable for transmission over communication facilities , and retrieves the signals by demodulation.

Parallel Transmission- A method of data transfer where all the bits of a character are transmitted simultaneously.

Parity- Using the most-significant bit of character to determine the accuracy of transmission. For even parity, this bit is set to make the total of the one bits of character add up to an even number. By convention, asyncronous communication uses even parity, synchronous uses odd parity, but this is not always observed. Over phone lines, parity bits are not a dependable method to verify accuracy, since a noise burst is typically longer than one bit interval.

RS232C- A standard cable definition to connect data terminal equipment to data set equipment, typically terminal to modem.

Serial Transmission- A method of data transfer in which the bits of a character are sent sequentially.

Simplex Channel- A communication channel that permits transmission in one direction only.

Start Bit- A framing bit used in asynchronous transmission to indicate the beginning of a character.

Stop Bit- A framing bit used in asynchronous transmission to indicate the end of a character transmission and allow the receiver to find the next start bit. Mechanical equipment may require two stop bits to allow time to handle the character; electronic equipment usually only requires one stop bit.

Synchronous Serial Transmission- A method of transmission that sends a serial bit-stream with no start-stop bits. A block of data is transmitted along with a clock signal to synchronize the transmitter and receiver. This method requires more extensive equipment than asynchronous transmission and is generally not used with microcomputers.

Terminal- An input/output device that can send or receive data.

Word Length- The number of bits to transmit one character. A parity bit may be added to this length if parity is being used, but framing bits (stop and start bits) are not counted.

REMEMBER TO USE GOOD MANNERS WHEN YOUR VISITING A BULLETIN BOARD!!!

SAC-TUG has it's own BBS, so if you need to contact club officers or other members you can call it. You may also leave articles or other information to be published in the SAC-TUG Newsletter. SAC-TUG BBS (916) 481-8349

We thank SYSOP Gary Peterson for his time and hard work keeping the system on line 24 hours a day.

SACRAMENTO AREA BBS'S (916)

NAME	PHONE #	SYSTEM	BAUD RATE	HOURS
24TH ST. EXCHANGE	451-7179	HEATH 89	3/12	24
ACCESS	921-2127	?	3/12	24
AIR RESEARCH	324-6997	?	3/12	24
APPLEBRARY	324-6997	APPLE	3/12	24
AVES	758-2314	APPLE	3/12/24	24
CAPITAL CITY GATEWAY	381-8788	TANDY 1000	3/12/24	24
CITIDEL	338-2352	HEATH 8	3/12	24
CITY OF GRAV	423-3987	ATARI	3/12	24
COBBS	753-4066	APPLE II	3	24
COMMONWEALTH	334-9059	ATARI	3/12	24
CREATIVE WRITER	351-1532	TANDY MODEL IV	3/12	24
DEMONS DEWLLING EVADER	381-1197	APPLE	12	24
DIGITAL EXPRESS	741-0377	ATARI	3/12	24
DRAGONS DEN	381-3364	HEATH H89	3/12	24
DYNA	753-0788	OSBORNE	3/12	24
EARLS CASTLE	967-1643	TANDY MODEL IV	3/12	24
FIDONET	372-8914	ATARI	3/12	24
KRASH	988-1044	KAYPRO	3/12	24
MICRO-BASE	989-3511	IBM PC	3/12	24
MICRO-MAINFRAME	635-6175	MICRO MAINFRAME	3/12/24	24
MIDDLE EARTH STRIDER	363-5241	TANDY MODEL IV	3/12	24
MUSE	332-2111	TANDY MODEL 3	3/12	24
NEW SOUTH A.C.C.E.S.S.	685-2860	ATARI	3	24
RCPM ORANGEVALE	988-2660	AMPRO LITTLE BD	3/12	24
SAC TIBBS	927-3012	TI-99 4A	3/12	24
SAC-TUG	481-8349	TANDY MODEL IV	3/12	24
SACRAMENTO 80 PC-BBS	929-1537	TANDY 1000	3/12/24	24
SELECT	392-7279	ATARI	3/12	24
SILK STOCKING BBS	920-4659	COMMODORE 64	3	24
SMUG	722-9337	?	3/12	24
THIRD WAVE INC.	485-0241	COMMODORE 64	3	24
VORTEX	481-0194	HOME BREW	3	24

If you know of any Bulletin Boards not listed here, please leave a message on the SC-TUG Board with the information. If a board listed here is shut down or changes it's description please leave a message to the editor of the SAC-TUG Newsletter.

"Thanks", SYSOP's, for your time and effort.

SAC ~TUG

SACRAMENTO TANDY USER'S GROUP
(SAC-TUG)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(____) Visitor (Complimentary SAC-TUG Newsletter)
(____) New Membership
(____) Renewal
(____) Information Change

------ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ------

Name:_____ Phone:_____

Mailing Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

(____) I DO NOT wish my name be released to others for mailing lists, etc.

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Please mail this form and remittance ($12.00) to:

SAC-TUG
3910 RENICK WAY
NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA. 95678
Attention: Secretary

The public is invited to attend the monthly SAC-TUG meeting. Members will receive our monthly newsletter, "THE SAC-TUG NEWS" and other special privileges. SAC-TUG meets the first Thursday of every month at the SMUD training building 59th ST. and Folsom Blvd. directly behind Corti Bros. store. Please stop in and join us.

~THE SAC-TUG NEWS~

FEBRUARY 1986

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SACRAMENTO TANDY USER'S GROUP

-------- IN THIS ISSUE OF THE SAC-TUG NEWS --------

A NEW LIST OF THE BBS'S IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA

IBM'S NEW LAP-TOP COMPUTER ...WHAT WILL THIS MEAN TO TANDY'S LAP-TOPS?

-------- FEBRUARY SAC-TUG MEETING --------

FEBRUARYS MEETING WILL BE AN EXCITING ONE. JERRY MOORE WILL BE GIVING A PRESENTATION ON BULLETIN BOARDS. THIS IS A MEETING YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.

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